Library

BIDEFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SURVEYOR, ENGINEER AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1959

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Technical Assistant:

Mr. J. W. Whitefield

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (Acres)	55,770
Population (Estimated)	5,280
Number of separately rated hereditaments as at 1st. April, 1960	1,925
Rateable Value (as at 1/4/60).	£33,165
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (as at 31/3/60).	£129/4/5.654

The chief occupations of the inhabitants of the District are directly or indirectly associated with agriculture. The District is a very popular holiday centre and many hotels, boarding houses and farms specialise in seasonal catering.

1959.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the Medical Officer of Health for the

Bideford Rural District

Telephone: BRADWORTHY 215.

Cleverdon House,

Bradworthy,

September, 1960.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Report dealing with the Public Health and general conditions of the district during the year 1959.

Your obedient Servant,

N. Bowring Betts,

Medical Officer of Health.

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VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS	1959
Live Births..	66
Live Birth rate per 1,000 population..	12.6
Still-births.	4
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births.	57.1
Total live and still-births.	70
Infant deaths	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total	15.1
" " " " " " " - legitimate	15.9
" " " " " " " illegitimate	0
Neo Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	15.1
Early Neo Natal mortality rate - Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births.	15.1
Prenatal mortality rate (still births and others under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births..	71.5
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA HOSPITALS.

1. TUBERCULOSIS

There are no hospitals for the reception of tuberculous patients in this district. Advanced cases are usually treated at Hawley Sanatorium, Barnstaple or Hawkmoor Chest Hospital, Bovey Tracey.

2. ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Any cases of infectious diseases which cannot be isolated or properly cared for at home, are conveyed to the Kingsley Hospital, which comprises 30 beds, 4 cots and 8 observation cubicles. No cases were admitted from the District during 1959.

3. POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

Many children in the district have received injections against Poliomyelitis. This has been carried out by the School Medical Officers and the family doctors. The age limit has been extended to include the 15-25 age group.

4. GENERAL

The Bideford and District Hospital serves the district extremely well for General Medical and Surgical treatment. The hospital contains about 51 beds. Hospital facilities are also available at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, and the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter.

5. MATERNITY CASES

Maternity cases may be admitted to the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple and also, by arrangement with the Devon County Council, to the Grenville Nursing Home, Bideford.

6. DISTRICT NURSING

There are six District Nurses, all qualified midwives, working in the district.

7. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory Service at 7 Dix's Field, Exeter, the Director is Dr.Moore. Chemical analyses are carried out by Public Analysts Messrs.Tickle & Reynolds, of Queen Street, Exeter.

8. DISINFECTION OF INFECTED BEDDING AND CLOTHING

By arrangement with the Bideford and District Joint Isolation Hospital Board, any infected bedding and clothing can be disinfected in the steam disinfecting apparatus at the Isolation Hospital.

9. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

There is a St. John Ambulance stationed at Bideford, which serves the rural district. There is also a separate ambulance stationed at the Isolation Hospital, which is used for the conveyance of patients suffering from any of the notifiable infectious diseases.

10. ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

An ante-natal clinic is held at Bideford.

11. CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

There are Child Welfare Clinics held at Hartland and Bideford.

12. VENEREAL DISEASE

A Clinic for venereal disease is held at the North Devon Infirmary twice weekly.

13. ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

A Clinic is held twice a month at Barnstaple and Bideford Hospital.

14. BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC

A Clinic is held once a month at the North Devon Dispensary, Barnstaple.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NOTIFICATIONS

Diseases	Total number of cases notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever... ...	3	0	0
Diptheria.	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0
Pneumonia..	0	0	0
Dysentery..	0	0	0
Erysipelas.	0	0	0
Opthalmia Neonatorum.	0	0	0
Anterior Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
and Polioencephalitis	0	0	0
Measles	1	0	0
Whooping Cough.. ...	5	0	0
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica... ...	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis... ...	0	0	0

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Whooping Cough		Measles		Pneumonia		Scarlet Fever	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 "	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2 years	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 "	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
4 "	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-9 "	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
10-14 "	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-24 "	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28 & over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	2	0	1	0	0	1	2

DIPTHERIA IMMUNISATION

A high proportion of the children under 15 years of age have availed themselves of the above scheme. Each school in the district has been visited by the School Medical Officer for this purpose. Immunisation is now conbined with whooping cough and Tetnus as a rule.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the register was as follows:-

			31st Dec. 1959
(a)	Pulmonary.. ..	Males..	11
		Females	9
(b)	Non Pulmonary ..	Males..	5
		Females	3
	Total		28

Total Cases on the Register, December 31st., 1959	28
" " " " " " " 1958	27
" " " " " " " 1957	27
" " " " " " " 1956	24
" " " " " " " 1955	24
" " " " " " " 1954	23
" " " " " " " 1953	27
" " " " " " " 1952	26
" " " " " " " 1951	24
" " " " " " " 1950	23
" " " " " " " 1949	21
" " " " " " " 1948	24

1. NEW CASES

During the year 1 case was notified in accordance with the Regulations.

(a)	Pulmonary..	Males	1
		Females.	0
(b)	Non-Pulmonary	Males	0
		Females.	0

TUBERCULOSIS
(Contd.)

The following are the notifications for the preceding twelve years:-

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1958	1	1	2
1957	2	3	5
1956	1	0	1
1955	2	1	3
1954	2	1	3
1953	0	1	1
1952	1	0	1
1951	1	0	1
1950	2	0	2
1949	1	1	2
1948	0	4	4
1947	2	1	3

2. AGE PERIODS (NEW CASES)

	Pulmonary 1959		Non-Pulmonary 1959	
	M	F	M	F
Under 1 Year	0	0	0	0
1 to 5 years	0	0	0	0
5 to 10 years	0	0	0	0
10 to 15 years	0	0	0	0
15 to 25 years	0	0	0	0
25 to 35 years	0	0	0	0
35 to 45 years	0	0	0	0
45 to 55 years	0	0	0	0
55 to 65 years	0	0	0	0
65 and over	1	0	0	0
	1	0	0	0

MORTALITY FROM TUBERCULOSIS

TOTAL DEATHS, 1959 - 0.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW

CAUSES OF DEATH

	1959 M	1959 F
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0
Other Tuberculosis Diseases...	0	0
Syphilitic disease	0	0
Diptheria	0	0
Whooping Cough.	0	0
Meningococcal Infections.	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis.	0	0
Measles...	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases..	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	2	0
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus..	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	0	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm..	2	2
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0
Dibetes...	0	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	5	2
Coronary Disease, Angina.	5	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	0	3
Other Heart Disease	6	7
Other Circulatory Disease	0	1
Influenza	1	0
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	1	0
Other diseases of Respiratory System	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.	1	0
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea, ...	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis..	2	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate..	0	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0
Congenital Malformations	0	0
Other Defined and Ill-Defined diseases..	3	9
Motor vehicle accidents...	0	0
All other accidents.....	0	0
Suicide...	1	0
Homicide and Operations of War	0	0
Total - All Causes	30	31

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE SURVEYOR, ENGINEER AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE BIDEFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Grenville House,
The Quay,
Bideford.

September, 1960.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BIDEFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1959, dealing with the various matters which come within the purview of this Department.

It will be noted in the detailed portions of the Report that the essential services are being extended, and it is felt that generally the pattern follows that of the past few years in that steady progress in extending those services is being maintained.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

L. J. DUNN.

Surveyor.

HOUSING

No new houses were erected by the Council during the year under review.

The following table enumerates the number of houses owned by the Council in the various Parishes and whether pre-war, war-time or post-war houses:-

Pre-war Houses.

Abbotsham	2
Alwington	4
Buckland Brewer	1
Clovelly	1
Hartland	4
Littleham	2
Monkleigh	2
Parkham	4
Woolsery	2
Total	22

War-time Houses.

In 1944 the Council built four houses:-

Natcott, Hartland	2
Crosspark, Woolsery	2
	4

Post-War Houses.

Abbotsham	6
Alwington	6
Buckland Brewer	12
Bulkworthy	2
Clovelly	8
East Putford	2
Hartland	32
Littleham	4
Monkleigh	12
Parkham	6
Welcombe	2
Total..	92

An outline scheme has been approved by the Council and by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government which will improve some of the pre-war Council Houses with the aid of a grant from the Ministry, allowing the provision of water closets, baths, wash basins, hot water supplies with, in most cases, a new drainage system, but in most cases the improvements cannot be done until such time as a mains water supply and a main sewer are available to the properties.

To date two houses have been improved and others will follow over the next few years.

There does not appear to be any urgent need for the provision of new Council Houses in the district, the urgent need was met some years ago when conditions were more favourable for the erection of same.

The Council still own a number of sites, suitable in all respects for the provision of new houses in various parts of the district but the high rate of interest payable on loans from the Public Works Loan Board together with the removal of housing subsidy some time ago, would make the cost of the erection of Council Houses extremely expensive and unless the rents were heavily subsidised from the local rate the houses would be beyond the means of persons for whom they were intended.

The erection of houses by private enterprise is now taking over the duty which rested entirely with the Council until a few years ago for the provision of new houses, and these are being built in increasing numbers in various parts of the district. Considerable works of improvement are being undertaken to alter houses both with and without the aid of grants as is reflected in the increased number of plans submitted to the Council for approval during the year - see plans later.

HOUSING ACTS, 1949-1959.

The arrangements whereby Discretionary and Standard Grants are payable by the Council towards the improvements of properties in the District is undoubtedly a fine scheme from all aspects. It improves the circumstances under which people live affording a better standard of living with all its increased benefits, and I am convinced it will save a number of old properties from falling into such a state of repair that

eventually they would be either closed or demolished and expensive new houses would have to be re-built to replace those lost units of accommodation.

The grants have been given to properties in villages and in the remote parts of the district, and it is particularly satisfactory that in this way people are being retained in the countryside whereas previously there was a tendancy to move to the Villages and Towns to obtain housing accommodation which provided the modern amenities which all families desire and which it is their right to expect.

During the year 9 Discretionary Grants were approved and the Council paid out a sum of £3,551 to completed works and for the first time Standard Grants are figured in the Annual Report and 11 of these were approved and the sum of £1,495 was paid on completed works.

HOUSING ACT, 1957.

No houses were closed or demolished as being unfit for human habitation during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The more densely parts of the following parishes now have a mains water supply:-

Abbotsham, Buckland Brewer, Bulkworthy, Clovelly, Hartland, Landcross, Littleham, Monkleigh, Newton St. Petrock, Parkham and Woolsery.

During the year under review the North Devon Water Board, who are the statutory water undertakers for the district, closed down one of the remaining local sources of supply at Hartland, which was an emergency supply only, and practically the whole of the water consumed in the district comes from elsewhere in the County.

During the year under review a supply of water was taken to the Parish of Bulkworthy and the Water Board commenced laying a main from Bucks Cross, in the Parish of Woolsery, back to Abbotsham Cross which, when completed, will cover a large part of the area to which a main water supply will be a much needed service.

The only remaining Parishes in the district without a supply within their boundaries are East Putford and Welcombe, but at the time of writing the report it seems highly probable that East Putford will have a supply shortly and Welcombe in the not too distant future.

It is obviously impossible to run a main to every hamlet in the District where a water supply is required, but a scheme whereby the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food make a grant towards a main extension to predominantly agricultural properties which are very short of water is fulfilling a need, and undoubtedly many extensions will be made in future with the help of these grants.

Generally speaking, however, the district is well served by water mains and whereas in its early years the Water Board appeared to be supplying water to many other districts, this rural district has had its very fair share of works undertaken during the past ten years.

Ten years ago when I came to the District the Department were taking numerous water samples, the vast majority of which proved that the private supplies concerned were grossly contaminated and no protective works which could be undertaken could make those supplies satisfactory.

The position now is quite different in that only nine samples were taken from private sources during the year, six of which were found to be polluted, and in a number of cases it has been found possible to give advice on protective measures to reduce the incidence of pollution.

Individual farm water supply schemes are still being carried out with grants from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, especially to those Farms where there is no possibility of a main water supply ever becoming available.

SEWERAGE.

Modern sewerage and sewage disposal schemes are in operation in the following Villages:-

Buckland Brewer, Lower Clovelly, Horns Cross, Monkleigh, Parkham, Saltrens, and Higher Clovelly.

During the year under review the Higher Clovelly Sewerage Scheme was completed at a cost of approximately £19,000 and plans for the new Hartland and Stoke Sewerage Schemes were approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and these schemes are in progress at the time of writing the report.

Initial surveys and detailed plans have been drawn up for a sewerage scheme for Littleham Village, which, no doubt, will be carried out on completion of the Hartland and Stoke Schemes.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes require to be carried out at Bucks Mills and Bucks Cross, in the Parish of Woolsery, and the Hamlets of Ford and Fairy Cross, in the Parish of Alwington.

Improvements must be effected at some time to the sewers serving Woolsery Village and Lower Clovelly. In the case of Woolsery and Lower Clovelly the sewers in use are very old and it is known that some of these are old stone sewers and permit the ingress of considerable quantities of surface water which adversely affect the treatment at the works in the first case, and in the second case overloads the tidal holding tank for sewage constructed on the foreshore approximately 10 years ago.

The Village of Abbotsham is inadequately sewered at the moment and the sewage disposal works are grossly overloaded. A new scheme must be provided in this Village at some time in the near future, but under existing legislation it is very doubtful whether any new scheme for this Village would rank

for a grant under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts, and when the time comes for the work to be carried out it is thought that special application will have to be made to the appropriate Authority for a grant to help with the cost of the scheme.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse collection is carried out by contract in the undermentioned Parishes and Villages:-

Abbotsham Parish	Bi-monthly
Alwington "	"
Parkham "	"
Woolsery "	"
Littleham "	"
Landcross "	"
Monkleigh "	"
Buckland Brewer Parish	"
Clovelly Village	Twice weekly.
Higher Clovelly	Monthly.
Hartland Town	Weekly.
Stoke	Monthly.

This refuse service is undoubtedly inadequate both in frequency and the area it covers, and at the time of writing the report considerable improvements to the service are under consideration by the Council.

The state of the main roads through the District continue to be cause for concern during the summer months, since whereas litter bins are provided and emptied by the Council, the public are still not fully conscious of their responsibility in playing their part to keep the countryside tidy and it is only by co-operation of the public that an improvement be effected.

Considerable nuisance is caused by litter deposited by numerous persons who, during the summer months, sleep in their cars and caravans along the road, but it is hoped that this practice will be stopped by a County Bye-law shortly.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no public swimming baths situated in the district.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

FOOD PREMISES.

During the year six additional ice-cream licences were issued by this Department for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream only and there remains but one Producer-Retailer of ice-cream in the district.

A recent return to the Ministry of Health for cases of food poisoning in the district was "nil", and this speaks for itself. It has not been found necessary to report to the Council any contraventions of the regulations relating to food premises.

MILK AND DAIRY REGULATIONS, 1949/54.

20 Dealers Licences were issued for the sale of milk from various premises in the district, made up of 10 pasteurized, 9 T.T. and one supplementary T.T. licence.

The milk sold under these licences throughout the district is obtained from the Bideford Dairies in the adjoining Borough, and the milk is sold by the dealers in the same sealed containers in which it is received from the Dairies.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Two private slaughterhouses were licensed for use during the year and the amount they were used was similar to that during the last year, and it has been possible to inspect the greater majority of the meat from both premises.

Details of the work carried out at such premises and inspections etc. are detailed hereunder:-

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, Excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ..	57	6	-	371	324
Number inspected	57	6	-	103	309
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcases condemned ..	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	17	3	-	41	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	34%	50%	-	9%	-
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned ..	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	2	1	-	-	25
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2%	17%	-	-	8%

PLANS

Hereunder are details of Plans submitted to the Council for consideration under the Building Byelaws and Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

BUILDING BYELAWS.

Number approved 38

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947.

Number approved 63

Number refused 7

The figures quoted above indicate a 50% increase in the number of plans submitted during 1958, and whilst this in itself represents an increase in the amount of building work being carried out in the district, it does not include some of the minor but very important improvements to properties which do not involve any structural alterations and for which, therefore, plans are not required.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1947

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Number of Written Notices (5)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	3	-	-
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	8	17	-	-
(iii)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	9	20	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND - NIL